Inclusive Prosperity: A Gendered Analysis of Policies Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment

Topic:
Author: Irfan AHMED

Women play an important role in all walks of life because of their active roles in core economic sectors such as agriculture, livestock management, energy, disaster risk reduction (DRR), forestry, water management, and health. Gender integration in all areas of policy choices and at all stages of the decision-making process is an essential consideration of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. Nonetheless, figuring out how women can support inclusive economic growth is crucial. This study investigates the impact of women's labor participation on GDP, household consumption, and Investments. Moreover, the study finds disaggregated effects on employment.

The primary data source for this research is the gendered Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) of Saudi Arabia. This matrix categorizes labor and households into male and female classifications, providing a detailed representation of the economic activities involving both genders. The study employs a dynamic Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model to analyze the impact of women's participation in labor.

The novelty of this research lies in its comprehensive exploration of the impact of women's participation in labor on key economic indicators in the context of Saudi Arabia. By constructing a gendered Social Accounting Matrix and employing a dynamic Computable General Equilibrium model, the study offers a nuanced understanding of how gender integration in labor can influence GDP, household consumption, investments, and employment. This approach contributes to the broader discourse on gender-inclusive policy choices and decision-making processes, aligning with the goals outlined in Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. The disaggregated analysis of the effects on employment adds further depth to the investigation, providing valuable insights for policymakers and researchers interested in the economic empowerment of women in Saudi Arabia.